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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,066	12/22/2000	Thomas Zech	Westphal.6007	3230

7590 06/27/2002

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,066

Applicant(s)

ZECH ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 April 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-8 and 10-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's response filed April 19, 2002 has been placed of record in the file as Paper No. 8.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 10 recites the limitation "the upwardly slid" in Line 11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 10 recites the limitation "to expose said pin projecting portion to axially beyond the upwardly slid said spring loaded slider shell" in Line 11. It is unclear and indefinite what the limitation is claiming. For examination purposes the Examiner will assume that the limitation should read "to expose said pin projecting portion that axially projects beyond an upwardly slid of said spring loaded slider shell".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1-5, and 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ishii (U.S. Patent No. 6,146,168). With regard to Claim 1, Ishii discloses a socket connector (2) that mates with a plug connector (1) to establish an electrical plug connector assembly, the socket connector (2) comprising: a housing (18) that includes a socket receiving aperture (20) formed by a housing wall; a U-shaped first contact part (24) mounted within the housing (18) and including first and second walls (upper and lower part of contact 24) that are nominally parallel; and a second contact part (25) mounted within the housing (18) to nominally contact the first movable contact part (lower part of contact 24) in order provide an electrical connection between the first (24) and second (25) contact parts, wherein the plug connector (1) is inserted into the socket receiving aperture (20) the first wall (lower part of 24) flexes radially with respect to the second wall (upper part of 24) breaking the electrical connection between the U-shaped contact part (24) and the second contact part (25). See Figs. 7-8.

With regard to Claim 2, Ishii discloses the first wall (lower part of 24) flexing radially away from the second wall (upper part of 24) when the plug connector (1) is inserted into the socket receiving aperture (20). See Figs. 7-8.

With regard to Claim 3, Ishii discloses the first (lower part of 24) and second (upper part of 24) walls being integrally connected by a semicircular wall (connecting the lower and upper part) of the U-shaped first contact part (24), and the socket

connector (2) comprises a radially outward sloped guide wall (between 27 and the semicircular wall) mounted to the first wall (lower part of 24), wherein the sloped guide wall (between 27 and the semicircular wall) facilitates moving the first wall (lower part of 24) radially away from the second wall (upper part of 24) as the plug connector (1) is inserted into the socket receiving aperture (20). See Figs. 7-8.

With regard to Claim 4, Ishii discloses a connection plate (33) integrally attached to the U-shaped first contact part (24). See Figs. 7-8.

With regard to Claim 5, Ishii discloses a least one holding protrusion (27) integrally attached to the U-shaped first contact part (24). See Figs. 7-8.

With regard to Claim 7, Ishii discloses the housing (18) including an insulating part (lower part of 18) into which the second contact part (25) and the U-shaped first contact part (24) are inserted and operable positioned. See Figs. 7-8.

With regard to Claim 8, Ishii discloses the second contact part (25) and the U-shaped first contact part (24) each comprising at least one holding protrusion (33) that engages the insulating part (lower part of 18) to hold the second contact part (25) and the U-shaped first contact part (24) axially in place. See Figs. 7-8.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 6 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. Claims 10-15 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The references fail to teach, disclose, or suggest, either alone or in combination, the housing being pot-shaped and including a central pass-through opening for inserting the contact pin of the plug connector, the U-shaped first contact part extending at least partially into the pass-through opening, the insulating part including at least one identification protrusion that extends from a main body of the insulating part, wherein the identification protrusion identifies the position of the socket connector, a contact pin that runs axially through at least a portion of the length of the plug housing, and includes a pin base portion and a pin projecting portion; and a spring loaded slider shell that in spaced relationship coaxially surrounds the pin projecting portion, wherein the slider shell axially slides upward when the plug connector is inserted into the socket connector to expose the pin projecting portion that axially projects beyond an upwardly slid of the spring loaded slider shell and engages the first wall causing the first wall to radially flex relative to the second wall.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

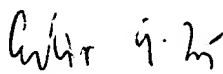
Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ogura (U.S. Patent No. 5,466,160), Zhang (U.S. Patent No. 6,322,397), Fujimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,296,492), and Resnick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,322,453) disclose electrical plug connector systems having sockets, plugs, contact pins and two contact parts.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833



EAL
June 23, 2002